

Message Text

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17

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 L-03 CU-05 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 260926Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6587

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS COTONOU 1496

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: ENTENTE LIVESTOCK LOAN

BRUSSELS FOR LUCY, ABIDJAN FOR REDSO, LOME FOR ADO, DEPT
FOR AID/W, NIAMEY FOR RDO

REF A. NIAMEY 2076 (NOTAL) B. COTONOU 1460

1. MET WITH DIR OF ELEVAGE HOUNTONDJI ON 24 SEPT RE OKPARA
RANCH. HOUNTONDJI HAD JUST RETURNED FROM BRUSSELS WHERE HE HAD
DISCUSSED PROJECT WITH FED. HE AS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO SWITCH-
ING USAID FINANCING TO CATTLE TRAILS PROJECT RATHER THAN RANCH,
AS SUGGESTED BY RDO.

2. IN BRUSSELS IT WAS DECIDED THAT OKPARA RANCH AS LAID OUT
IN THE GERMAN CONSULTING FIRM WIP'S STUDY WAS A NON-STARTER.
HOWEVER, THE FED HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND FINANCE THE
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A RANCH AT OKPARA IN TWO STEPS. NEW PRO-
JECT WILL BE SMALLER THAN ORIGINALLY LAID OUT. EXACT SPACE
LIMITS OF THE RANCH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. ONCE MRGD
APPROVES SMALLER SIZE PROJECT, THEN RED WILL SEND AN EXPERT
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TO WORK OUT SPACE LIMITS. IN ADDITION, NEW RANCH WILL INVOLVE

SEMI-INTENSIVE INSTEAD OF INTENSIVE PASTURAGE. CERTAIN TESTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE THE ABILITY OF BORGOU CATTLE STRAIN TO USE THE PASTURE AND FOOD SUPPLIES. ONCE THIS IS DETERMINED, FED WILL THEN FINANCE SECOND PHASE. FED IS NOT SUPPLYING ENOUGH MONEY FOR PROJECT TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT USAID ASSISTANCE, NOR DOES MRGD WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE FOURTH FED TO GET MORE MONEY TO COMPLETE PROJECT. THEREFORE, DIR OF ELEVAGE WAS INSISTENT ON NEED TO GET AID FINANCING AND SAID THAT MINISTRY WILL BE WRITING USAID TO ASSURE THEM THAT GOVERNMENT WILL USE FUNDS PROVIDED AND NOT TO DEOBLIGATE ANY FUNDS. ONE OF THE REASONS HE MENTIONED FOR INSISTENCE ON GOING AHEAD WITH SOME SORT OF RANCH IS THAT GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING AN ABBATOIR BETWEEN PORTO-NOVO AND COTONOU, AND THEY WANT TO BE ASSURED OF A SUPPLY OF CATTLE FOR IT.

3. FED HAS ALSO DROPPED THE IDEA OF CATTLE TRAILS BECAUSE OF WORK BEING DONE ON PARAKFU-MALANVILLE ROAD. FED THINKS THE TRAILS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY SINCE CATTLE WILL BE ABLE BE TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK. DAHOMEANS ARE NOT IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE FED ON THIS.

4. COMMENT: WITH FED APPROVAL IN HAND, MRGD SEEMS TO HAVE PUT OKPARA RANCH BACK ON TRACK. EMBASSY WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE AID FUNDING CUT OFF AT THIS STAGE. REDSO MIGHT CONSIDER HAVING CONSULTANT MORRIS REVIEW REVISED PLANS FOR RANCH. CHESHES

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